



Maximum : 9.1°  
Minimum : -6.0°  
Humidity : 91%

SUNSET  
Today 05:51 PM  
SUNRISE  
Tomorrow 07:35 AM

Contact: -0194-2502327  
FOR SUBSCRIPTIONS &  
YOUR COPY OF



**Quote!**

Love is the wisdom  
of the fool and the folly  
of the wise.

— Samuel Johnson

**NEWS DIGEST**

**CRPF Man Dies  
Of Haemorrhage**

**SRINAGAR:** A Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) man, who had suffered brain haemorrhage in south Kashmir's Shopian district, died at SK Institute of medical sciences here on Wednesday, reports said. 55-year-old Ramsukh Meena of CRPF 14 battalion died at the Neurology ward of the SKIMS here on Wednesday, local news agency KNO reported. A resident of Rajasthan, Meena was posted at Deputy Commissioner (DC) Shopian's office and died. ● More On P10

**CASO Conducted  
In Tral**

**SRINAGAR:** Government forces on Wednesday launched a cordon and search operation (CASO) in Tral town of south Kashmir's Pulwama district. Special operations group (SOG) of police, army's 42 Rashtriya Rifles and the personnel of CRPF 180 Battalion laid a siege around Shaldraman village of Tral and conducted door-to-door searches after receiving inputs about the movement of militants, news agency KNT reported while quoting police sources. During the search operation, the report said that the state forces thoroughly checked the identity. ● More On P10

**Electric Shock  
Injures PDD Lineman**

**SRINAGAR:** A Power Development Department (PDD) lineman was on Wednesday injured due to electrocution in Kangan area of Ganderbal district. 55-year-old Mehboob Sheikh of Wanlyaram Wangath received an electric shock while repairing a line in the locality on Wednesday morning, news agency KNO reported. Sheikh, who sustained injuries due to electrocution, was rushed to Trauma Hospital, Kangan for treatment. Meanwhile, police has taken cognizance in this regard, the report added.

**Trucker's Body  
Retrieved From Stream**

**BANIHAL:** The body of a 22-year-old truck driver from Haryana was found in a stream in Jammu and Kashmir's Ramban district on Wednesday, two days after his vehicle skidded off the road and plunged into a 150-foot-deep gorge along the Jammu-Srinagar national highway, officials said. The Jammu-bound truck rolled down into a stream at Sherbibi on Monday, following which one person was rescued in an injured condition, while the driver remained untraced and was believed to. ● More On P10

**Burglars Strike Tangmarg  
Shrine, Mosques**

**SRINAGAR:** Unidentified burglars struck a shrine and three mosques in Tangmarg area of Baramulla district and decamped with cash, reports said Wednesday. During the intervening night of Tuesday and Wednesday, unknown burglars struck a shrine in Ziyarat Nakesh Budipora and three Masjids, including Jamia Masjid Warpora, Masjid Sharief and Masjid Sharief Golewara Tangmarg where they broke open the donation boxes and decamped with cash. ● More On P10

**In Kashmir, Doctors Taking First Shot To Allay Vaccine Fears**

Marila Latif

Amid growing paranoia and panic, Mohammad Shafi, a 30-year-old dentist in Govt Dental College, Shireen Bagh Srinagar signed up as the 20th health beneficiary in SMHS hospital for taking the Covid shot. But before being jabbed, he asked a few questions in



hesitation, "Since I'm diabetic, is this vaccine safe for me? I also have hypertension, can I really take the vaccine?" After getting assurance from the doctors, he took the vaccine and joined other participants — kept under observation for an hour to monitor any Adverse Effects Following Immunization (AEFI). Every vaccine made for any disease has its side-effects,

Dr Saleem Khan, Head of the Department Community Medicine, Government Medical College (GMC) Srinagar, told Kashmir Observer. "And it's very common," Dr Khan said. "It's actually the stimulation of the human body towards a drug like fever, chills, headaches etc, but it's not something to be afraid of." Dr. Shafi wasn't alone to

take the vaccine shot. His colleague, 29-year-old dentist, Owais Gowher, was following him as the 21st participant. "I feel a slight pain on my shoulder, nothing else," said Dr Owais. "We don't know how many more mutated variants are coming — it's better to take the cure beforehand," he said and smiled. But amid public skepticism, only a ● More On P10

**Centre Okays Rs 5K Cr Investment In 850 MW Ratile Power Project**

Press Trust Of India

**NEW DELHI:** The Union Cabinet on Wednesday approved an investment proposal of Rs 5,281.94 crore for the 850 MW Ratile hydro power project on river Chenab in Kishtwar district of Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir, an official statement said.



The project will be constructed by a joint venture company (JVC) to be incorporated between National Hydroelectric

Power Corporation (NHPC) and Jammu & Kashmir State Power Development Corporation Ltd (JKSPDC) with equity contribution of 51 per cent and ● More On P10

**Biden Becomes 46th US President**



Agenceis

**WASHINGTON:** Joseph Robinette Biden Jr. became the 46th U.S. president on Wednesday, completing the most daunting power transfer in recent American history.

Inaugurated in a fortified Washington under the shadow of the coronavirus pandemic, the 78-year-old Democrat took the oath of office at the U.S. Capitol in front of a sparse bipartisan crowd. He enters the White House exactly two weeks after a mob inflamed by his predecessor, Donald Trump, stormed the Capitol, disrupting the transition to Biden's administration and leaving five people dead.

Biden took the oath of office from Supreme Court ● More On P10

**Wet Spell From Saturday To Break Cold Wave In Kashmir**

Observer Monitoring Desk

**SRINAGAR:** As Kashmir continues to reel under intense cold wave, the weather department on Wednesday predicted another wet spell from Friday night in Jammu and Kashmir which might lead to temporary disruption of surface and air traffic.

According to a meteorological official, most of the places in Jammu and Kashmir are likely to receive widespread snowfall between January 22-January 24 under the influence of a fresh

western disturbance of moderate intensity which is most likely to affect J&K and Kargil district of Ladakh during the night of January 22.

"The main activity will be on January 23-24. This will cause widespread moderate snowfall in hilly areas of Jammu, plains of Kashmir, rain in plains of Jammu and light snowfall at scattered places of Ladakh especially in Kargil district," the official said, adding that the wet spell may lead to temporary disruption of surface and aircraft traffic. ● More On P10



**THE MAIN ACTIVITY WILL BE ON JANUARY 23-24.** This will cause widespread moderate snowfall in hilly areas of Jammu, plains of Kashmir, rain in plains of Jammu and light snowfall at scattered places of Ladakh especially in Kargil district. ●

**LG Terms Centre's Decision 'Historic'**



Slams Previous Regimes For Giving In To Pak Threats

Observer News Service

**JAMMU:** Hailing Prime Minister Narendra Modi for approving Rs 5281.94 crore

investment for 850 megawatt (MW) Ratile hydro-power project on Chenab river, Lieutenant Governor, Manoj Sinha on Wednesday slammed previous regimes for "depriving Jammu & Kashmir ● More On P10

**'Radicalisation Process Is Fourth Generation Warfare'**

Terming the radicalisation process as "fourth generation warfare", Jammu and Kashmir Lt Governor Manoj Sinha on Wednesday called for comprehensive measures involving de-radicalisation and counter-radicalisation strategies to address it. He made these remarks while inaugurating a religious leaders' ● More On P10

**THE FREE POWER TO THE UNION TERRITORY** would be 1 per cent in the first year after commissioning of the project and rise at the rate of 1 per cent per year to 12 per cent in the 12th year

**4 Soldiers Injured In Pak Firing On LoC**

Press Trust Of India

**JAMMU:** Four soldiers of the Army sustained injuries as Pakistani troops opened fire targeting forward areas along the Line of Control (LoC) in Jammu and Kashmir's Akhnoor sector, official sources said on Wednesday.

The ceasefire violation from across the LoC in the Keri Battal area took place on the intervening night of Tuesday and Wednesday, they said. Four soldiers suffered splinter injuries and were

shifted to the military hospital in Udhampur for treatment, the sources added. Jammu and Kashmir recorded 5,100 instances of ceasefire violations by Pakistan along the Line of Control (LoC) in 2020, the highest in the past 18 years with an average of 14 cases daily, according to official sources.

In these ceasefire violations, 36 people, including 24 security personnel, were killed and over 130 injured, as per data. Security officials said that shelling and ● More On P10



Members of a visiting parliamentary delegation pose for photograph at Dargah Hazratbal on Wednesday- KO Photo: Abid Bhat

**R-Day: Attend Function Or Face Action, Govt Tells Employees**

Agencies

**SRINAGAR:** The government has asked its workforce to attend the main official January 26 functions in Jammu and warned them that any dereliction will be construed as disobedience of the instructions. "The main function of the Republic Day-2021 is being held at the Maulana Azad Stadium, Jammu, where the Lieutenant Governor will preside over the function and take the salute. All Officers/Officials

of the Government and Public Sector Undertakings, Stationed at Jammu, are called upon to attend the function as a part of their official duty," reads a circular issued by the government. "All Heads of Departments and Chief Executives of Public Sector Undertakings shall ensure their own participation and also of the employees subordinate to them in the function," it said, adding, "Failure to attend the function will be construed as dereliction of duty and ● More On P10

**No Covid Death Reported in 24 Hrs**

Agenceis

**SRINAGAR:** Jammu and Kashmir on Wednesday recorded 109 new coronavirus cases that raised its tally to 1, 23,647, officials said.

They said no fresh death due to the infection took place in the past 24 hours. Of the fresh cases, 45 were reported from the Jammu division and 64 from the Kashmir division of the union territory, the officials said. They said Jammu district recorded the ● More On P10

**Second Batch Of Covishield Arrives**

Agencies

**SRINAGAR:** The second consignment of Covishield vaccine manufactured by the Serum Institute of India, Pune, arrived at Srinagar Airport on Wednesday, officials said.

The consignment comprising 65,000 doses of the vaccine arrived in 6 boxes weighing 205.33kg at the Srinagar airport from Mumbai airport through Spice jet flight number SG 413, official twitter handle of Srinagar airport said.

The consignment was received by State Immunization ● More On P10

**Beyond Miffed Tourist's Rant, Kashmir Remains Sightseers' Joy**

Swati Joshi

Supporting shades, scarf and pink coat, a tourist from Mumbai lately became the talk of the town for what she called "ranting" about the "absence of arrangements" in the snowbound Kashmir capital. As part of a frantic vacationer horde—some of whom had earlier flown in droves for the New Year snow celebrations in the valley—she was heading home after the classic winter struck the valley. Amid her jammed journey toward the airport, the miffed

Mumbaikar detailed her "harrowing experience" in a video that went viral on social media and created the mixed reaction. Despite being grounded by the bad weather as others, the tourist went on the map the inadequate facilities in the place that enthralled her till the blizzard triggered a panic flight.

But barring what the snow-ho-ho-ho holidaymaker lately asserted, Kashmir has always remained the sightseers' delight. Some backpackers are making no bones about it in their travelogues.

Mayuri Singh Sengar

When Mayuri Singh Sengar went on a bike trip from Srinagar to Kupwara, the solo traveler felt a connection with Kashmir.

In her blog Life Beyond Usual, Sengar writes about the "warm hospitality" and the mesmerizing beauty of the valley.

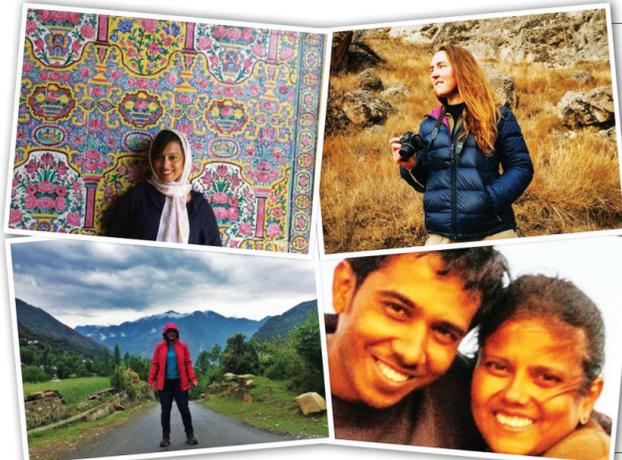
An ex-legal advisor in the electricity sector, Sengar was a little disappointed by the busy highway—like the Mumbai tourist—but she felt warmly welcomed in Kashmir.

She spent "a wonderful time" engaging with everyone, from the bike mechanic, the police personnel at the check post, and local people to servers at the restaurant.

Elisha Donkin

In her blog Going Somewhere, hiker Elisha Donkin describes the valley as the most peaceful places he had been to in a long time.

She describes her full of hospitality Kashmir trip as heavenly. Despite staying in Srinagar where she saw the ● More On P10



FEATURE